

Pf-2741/nec/us/mh

What is claimed is :

1. A directory server system comprising :

a directory server for storing an attribute of an entry ;

5 an entity monitor being connected to said directory server for monitoring an entity, so that if a change in a state of said entity appears, then said entity monitor instructs said directory server to renew an attribute of a corresponding entry to said entity ; and

10 a directory renewal history storage device being connected to said directory server for storing a renewed attribute of said entry as attribute renewal history informations.

2. The directory server system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a time-correspondent directory server connected to both said
15 directory server and said directory renewal history storage device for confirming an existence of a target entry on said directory server, so that if said existence of said target entry on said directory server could be confirmed, then said time-correspondent directory server obtains said attribute renewal history informations from said directory renewal history
20 storage device.

3. The directory server system as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a directory purging entry storage device being connected to said directory server, said directory renewal history storage device and said

Pf-2741/nec/us/mh

time-correspondent directory server for storing an entry corresponding to an absent entity which has become absent, whilst said entry becomes absent on said directory server.

- 5 4. The directory server system as claimed in claim 3, wherein if said entity becomes absent, then said attribute renewal history informations of a corresponding entry to said absent entity are deleted from said directory renewal history storage device, and in place said directory purging entry storage device stores said attribute renewal history
10 informations.

5. The directory server system as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a time-correspondent directory client connected to said time-correspondent directory server for sending said time-correspondent
15 directory server a request for obtaining attribute history informations at a past time of an entry from said time-correspondent directory server in order to refer said attribute history informations at said past time.

6. The directory server system as claimed in claim 5, wherein if
20 said request from said time-correspondent directory client is free of any access right, then said time-correspondent directory server rejects said request and sends said time-correspondent directory client a notice to the effect that said request is illegal.

Pf-2741/nec/us/mh

7. The directory server system as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a time-correspondent directory client connected to said time-correspondent directory server for sending said time-correspondent directory server a request for obtaining attribute history informations during a past time period of an entry from said time-correspondent directory server in order to refer said attribute history informations during said past time period.

8. The directory server system as claimed in claim 7, wherein if said request from said time-correspondent directory client is free of any access right, then said time-correspondent directory server rejects said request and sends said time-correspondent directory client a notice to the effect that said request is illegal.

9. The directory server system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said directory renewal history storage device also stores renewal time and date together with said renewed attribute of said entry as attribute renewal history informations.